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Message Text

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42
ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

SAM-01 DRC-01 NIC-01 IO-14 /094 W
---------- 101690
R 200616Z FEB 74
FM AMCONSUL HONG KONG
TO USIA WASHDC
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9630
AMEMBASSY TAIPEI
USLO PEKING (POUCH)

UNCLAS HONG KONG 1843

USIAC

FOR IOR/M IEA, STATE FOR EA

E.O. 11652: N/A
SUBJ: MEDIA REACTION: UNGER NOMINATION

1. THE PRO-ROC KUNG SHEUNG DAILY NEWS FEB. 19 EDITORIALIZED ON THE NOMINATION OF LEONARD UNGER AS U.S. AMBASSADOR TO TAIPEI. THE PAPER SAID: (QUOTE) "FOR A WHILE IN THE PAST THERE WERE NUMEROUS

RUMORS, SAYING THAT ONCE MCCONNAUGHY LEFT TAIPEI THE U.S. WOULD NOT SEND
ANOTHER AMBASSADOR TO SUCCEED HIM, BUT WOULD LET AN OFFICIAL OF THE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES LEVEL HEAD THE MISSION; OR THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A U.S. TRADE CENTER IN TAIPEI MEANT THIS OFFICE WOULD TAKE OVER THE FUNCTION OF THE EMBASSY IN THE FUTURE. SUCH RUMORS ROSE ENTIRELY FROM THE STATEMENT BY BOTH SIDES AT THE CONCLUSION OF KISSINGER'S SIXTH VISIT TO PEIPING, TO THE EFFECT THAT THEY WOULD 'ACCELERATE NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS.'...
NOW THAT PRESIDENT NIXON HAS NOMINATED A NEW AMBASSADOR TO CHINA, THE ABOVE RUMORS ARE COMPLETELY DISPELLED. THIS IS WHERE THE SIGNIFIANCE OF THE MATTER LIES.
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2. "IN ADDITION, THE WHITE HOUSE'S DECISION ON THIS PERSONNEL MATTER WHICH HAD LONG BEEN DANGLING IN THE AIR JUST WHEN BRUCE IS AWAY FROM HIS POST IS VERY SUBTLY TIMED. THE U.S. AUTHORITIES KNOW VERY WELL THAT SENDING A NEW AMBASSADOR TO TAIWAN IS CERTAIN TO AROUSE EXTREME 'ANGER' IN PEIPING, WHO WILL REGARD IT AS A MOVE TO HINDER THE ACCELERATION OF THE 'NORMALIZATION' OF RELATIONS, AND WILL SECRETLY REPROACH THE U.S. FOR SAYING ONE THING AND DOING ANOTHER. FROM THIS ANGLE, WE CAN FURTHER AURMISE THAT THE WHITE HOUSE WOULD NOT WANT TO ANGER PEIPING WITHOUT ANOTHER REASON, AND THAT REASON MAY WELL BE THAT THE U.S. AUTHORITIES HAVE REACHED A NEW CONCLUSION IN THEIR ASSESSMENT OF PEIPING -- A REALIZATION THAT THEY HAVE BEEN WRONG AND SHOULD TAKE STEPS TO CORRECT THE MISTAKE. IF OUR ASSUMPTION IS CORRECT, THEN THE MEANING OF UNGER'S NEW APPOINTMENT NOT ONLY IS SIGNIFICANT TO THE REPUBLIC OF CHINA BUT ALSO HAS A TREMENDOUS BEARING ON THE FUTURE OF ALL OF ASIA.

3. ONE LAST POINT IS THAT UNGER'S APPOINTMENT PROVES THAT THE WHITE HOUSE'S DETERMINATION TO HONOR ITS COMMITMENT TO CHINA WILL NOT CHANGE JUST BECAUSE OF ITS RECONCILIATION WITH PEIPING. WE SINCERELY HOPE OUR GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE WILL ATTACH PARTICULAR IMPORTANCE TO THIS, AND WE ESPECIALLY HOPE OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORITIES WILL NOT MISS THIS FAVORABLE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE A POSITIVE INITIATIVE AND BRING CHINA AND THE U.S. TO AN EVEN CLOSER RELATIONSHIP. (END QUOTE)
IZENBERG

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
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TAGS: PFOR, CH, US, (UNGER, LEONARD)
To: USIA
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